

REMARKS

Claims 21 through 48 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1 through 20 are hereby cancelled without prejudice to the subject matter contained therein. The cancellation of claims 1 through 20 has rendered moot the section 102 and 103 rejections thereof. These claims were cancelled for purposes of expediting prosecution and reducing excess claim fees. Applicant reserves the right to refile the cancelled claims and contest the rejections in a subsequent application.

Claims 21 through 48 have been added.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND §103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-12, 14, 16-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Dugan (U.S. Pat. No. 6,266,916). Claims 3 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dugan (U.S. Pat. No. 6,266,916) in view of Swift's of Vauxhall website, dated December 23, 2001. Claims 5 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dugan (U.S. Pat. No. 6,266,916) in view of Guerin (U.S. Pat. No. 5,829,183). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As noted above, Applicant has cancelled claims 1 through 20, and therefore the section 102 and 103 rejections of claims 1 through 20 are moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 102 and 103 rejections of claims 1 through 20.

NEW CLAIMS 21 THROUGH 48

New claims 21 through 48 are each supported by the application as originally filed. Accordingly, no new matter is introduced by the addition of claims 21 through 48.

Applicant also submits that the inventions set forth in the pending claims 21 through 48 are patentably distinct over Dugan (U.S. Pat. No. 6,266,916), Swift's of

Vauxhall website, and Guerin (U.S. Pat. No. 5,829,183) because the cited references, alone or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest each and every feature required by new claims 21 through 48.

For example, the cited references do not disclose, teach or even remotely suggest a fishing weight having a passageway therethrough in which can be positioned and retained a connecting eye of a hook. Instead, the cited references appear to disclose fishing weights having passageways that allow a connecting eye of a hook to be passed completely through the weight in order for the weight to be located on the shank of the hook. In the cited references, the connecting eye of the hook is not retained within a weight but instead is positioned outside of and external to the weight during use and/or after assembling the fishing lure that include such weight.

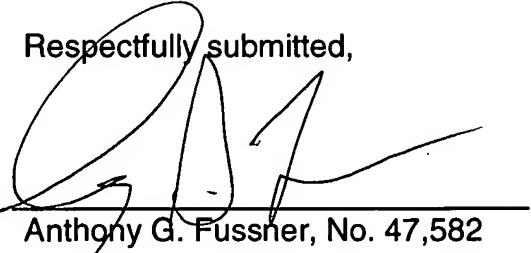
Because the cited references do not at least disclose, teach or remotely suggest a connecting eye of a hook being located within a passageway defined through a fishing weight, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references do not anticipate nor render obvious claim 21 through 48.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (314) 726-7502.

Applicant believes that the appropriate fees are included herewith. But the Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees or to credit any overpayments thereto.

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Respectfully submitted,
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